

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Applicants propose to amend claims 1, 18, and 19. Applicants further propose to cancel claims 5 and 6 by their incorporation into the subject matter of independent claim 1. No claims have been added. Upon entry of this Response by the Examiner, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of validating a request in connection with an interactive content database, said method comprising:

receiving a request that affects an item;

identifying a version of the item based on a first time;

determining whether the request affects an object associated with the item;

identifying a version of the object based on a second time when the request affects the object, wherein identifying the version of the object comprises retrieving a timestamp and an identifier for the object; and

completing the request based on the version of the item and the version of the object.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request for deleting the item.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the version of the item comprises retrieving a timestamp for the item.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the version of the item comprises retrieving the timestamp and an identifier for the item.
5. (Canceled).
6. (Canceled).
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein completing the request based on the version of the item and the version of the object comprises:
  - determining whether the version of the item matches the version of the object; and
  - completing the request when the versions of the item and object match.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein completing the request based on the version of the item and the version of the object comprises:
  - determining whether the version of the item is older than the version of the object;
  - and
  - completing the request when the version of the item is older than the version of the object.
9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for validating a request in connection with an interactive content database, said apparatus comprising:
  - means for receiving a request that affects an item;
  - means for identifying a version of the item based on a first time;

means for determining whether the request affects an object associated with the item;

means for identifying a version of the object based on a second time when the request affects the object; and

means for completing the request based on the version of the item and the version of the object.

10. (Previously Presented) An application program for validating a request in connection with an interactive content database, the application program stored on a computer readable medium, said program comprising:

program code for receiving a request that affects an item;

program code for identifying a version of the item based on a first time;

program code for determining whether the request affects an object associated with the item;

program code for identifying a version of the object based on a second time when the request affects the object; and

program code for completing the request based on the version of the item and the version of the object.

11. (Original) The medium of claim 10, further comprising program code for receiving a request for deleting the item.

12. (Original) The medium of claim 10, further comprising program code for retrieving a timestamp for the item.

13. (Original) The medium of claim 10, further comprising program code for retrieving the timestamp and an identifier for the item.

14. (Original) The medium of claim 10, further comprising program code for retrieving a timestamp for the object.

15. (Original) The medium of claim 14, further comprising program code for retrieving the timestamp and an identifier for the object.

16. (Original) The medium of claim 10, further comprising:  
program code for determining whether the version of the item matches the version of the object; and  
program code for completing the request when the versions of the item and object match.

17. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 10, further comprising:  
program code for determining whether the version of the item is older than the version of the object; and  
program code for completing the request when the version of the item is older than the version of the object.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of processing requests that delete an item in connection with an interactive content database, wherein the item includes an associated object[[s]], said method comprising:

receiving a request that deletes an item;

identifying a first age of the item affected by the request;

retrieving information indicating a second age of at least one associated object;

tracking and recording transaction attributes of the first age of the item and the second age of the at least one associated object; and

selectively deleting the item and the at least one associated object based on whether the first age of the item is greater than or equal to the second age of the at least one associated object.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing requests that delete an item in connection with an interactive content database, wherein the item includes an associated object[[s]], said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request that deletes an item;

means for identifying a first age of the item affected by the request;

means for retrieving information indicating a second age of at least one associated object;

means for tracking and recording transaction attributes of the first age of the item and the second age of the at least one associated object; and

means for selectively deleting the item and the at least one associated object based on whether the first age of the item is greater than or equal to the second age of the at least one associated object.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of validating a request, said method comprising:
- providing a library server database including accessible items therein;
  - receiving a request that affects an item;
  - identifying a version of the item based on a first time;
  - determining whether the request affects an object associated with the item;
  - identifying a version of the object based on a second time when the request affects the object; and
  - completing the request based on the version of the item and the version of the object.